Appl. No.

09/801,542

Filed

March 7, 2001

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. No amendments have been made.

1-34. (**Canceled**)

35. (**Previously presented**) A method for growing a thin film on a substrate by exposing the substrate in a reaction chamber defined by a plurality of walls to alternate surface reactions of vapor-phase reactants, comprising:

controlling a chamber wall temperature of at least those portions of the chamber walls that are exposed to the vapor-phase reactants;

loading the substrate onto a substrate support structure inside the reaction chamber;

controlling a substrate support temperature independently of the chamber wall temperature; and

alternately and sequentially feeding at least two vapor phase reactants into the reaction chamber

wherein the substrate support temperature is maintained at a first temperature and the chamber wall temperature is maintained at a second temperature different from the substrate support temperature and, wherein a difference between the first temperature and the second temperature is selected to maintain a lower rate of atomic layer deposition (ALD) film growth upon the chamber walls as compared to the substrate.

36. (Canceled)

- 37. (**Previously presented**) The method of Claim 35, wherein the chamber wall temperature is maintained higher than the substrate support temperature.
- 38. (**Original**) The method of Claim 37, wherein the chamber wall temperature is controlled at a level low enough to prevent thermal decomposition of the reactants.
- 39. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 35, wherein the chamber wall temperature is maintained lower than the substrate support temperature.

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40. (Original) The method of Claim 39, wherein the chamber wall temperature is controlled at a level high enough to prevent condensation of one of the reactants on the wall.

- 41. (Original) The method of Claim 39, wherein the chamber wall temperature is controlled at a level high enough to prevent physisorption of one of the reactants on the wall.
- 42. (Original) The method of Claim 39, wherein one of the reactants is water and the wall is maintained at a temperature of 200°C or higher.
- 43. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 35, wherein the chamber wall temperature is maintained higher than a temperature of the reactants as they enter the reaction chamber.
- 44. (**Previously presented**) A method for growing a thin film on a substrate by exposing the substrate in a reaction chamber defined by a plurality of chamber walls to alternate surface reactions of vapor-phase reactants, comprising:

loading the substrate onto a substrate support structure inside the reaction chamber;

maintaining the substrate support at a first temperature by means of a first temperature controller;

maintaining at least portions of the chamber walls that are exposed to the vaporphase reactants at a second temperature different from the first temperature by means of a second temperature controller; and

alternately and sequentially feeding at least two vapor phase reactants into the reaction chamber;

wherein the second temperature is selected to lower a rate of atomic layer deposition (ALD) film growth upon the walls relative to the substrate.

- 45. (**Original**) The method of Claim 44, wherein the second temperature is maintained higher than the first temperature.
- 46. (Original) The method of Claim 45, wherein maintaining the first temperature comprises removing heat from the substrate support.
- 47. (**Original**) The method of Claim 46, wherein removing heat comprises circulating a fluid through the substrate support.

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48. (Original) The method of Clam 44, wherein the second temperature is maintained lower than the first temperature.

49. (Canceled)

- 50. (Previously presented) A method for preventing unwanted deposition on walls of an atomic layer deposition reaction chamber, comprising controlling a temperature of a substrate and independently controlling a temperature of at least those portions of the chamber walls exposed to reactants, such that a rate of deposition by self-limited atomic layer deposition on the substrate is maximized while self-limited atomic layer deposition (ALD) film growth on the walls is reduced relative to controlling a temperature of the substrate alone.
- 51. (**Original**) The method of Claim 50, wherein controlling the chamber wall temperature comprises heating the chamber walls.
- 52. (**Original**) The method of Claim 50, wherein controlling the substrate temperature comprises heating the substrate.
- 53. (Original) The method of Claim 50, wherein controlling the wall temperature comprises maintaining the wall temperature in a range to accomplish atomic layer deposition upon the walls.
- 54. (**Original**) The method of Claim 50, wherein controlling the wall temperature comprises maintaining the wall temperature in a range to avoid condensation and physisorption of reactants upon the walls.
- 55. (Original) The method of Claim 54, wherein controlling the wall temperature comprises maintaining the wall temperature in a range to avoid thermal decomposition of reactants upon the walls.
- 56. (**Original**) The method of Claim 55, wherein controlling the wall temperature comprises maintaining the wall temperature in a range to reduce film growth rates upon the walls relative to deposition rates upon the substrate.
- 57. (**Previously presented**) A method for growing a thin film on a substrate by exposing the substrate in a reaction chamber defined by a plurality of walls to alternate surface reactions of vapor-phase reactants, comprising:

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controlling a chamber wall temperature of at least those portions of the chamber walls that are exposed to the vapor-phase reactants;

loading the substrate onto a substrate support structure inside the reaction chamber;

controlling a temperature of the substrate independently of the chamber wall temperature;

alternately and sequentially feeding at least two vapor phase reactants into the reaction chamber; and

maintaining the temperature of the substrate within an ALD temperature window such that approximately one monolayer is deposited per full cycle and maintaining the chamber wall temperature within a temperature window that is either (i) above a lower temperature limit at which condensation takes place on the chamber walls and below the ALD temperature window or (ii) below a high temperature limit at which thermal decomposition causes deposition on the chamber walls and above the ALD temperature window.